

A N A C C O U N T

Of the Behaviour of Sir *John Fenwick*,
at his Execution on *Tower-Hill* :
with the Copy of the Paper deli-
vered by him to the Sheriffs of
London, &c.

S I R *John Fenwick*, on the Day of his Execution, arose at Four a Clock in the Morning, and was privat until Seven : At Ten he came out of *Newgate* into a Mourning Coach, was received by the Sheriffs and Guards, and conducted to *Tower-Hill*; in his passage he fix'd his Eyes on a Prayer Book, and spoke not a word to any person. So numerous were the Spectators that it was past Eleven half an Hour before he came upon the Scaffold; where it was observed at first, that he seemed to be somewhat surprized, and for a few Moments stood Speechless, but soon after appeared with great composure of mind; and after saluting those on the Scaffold, desired Dr. *White* to pray with him: Which being over, he thank'd the Sheriffs for their Civilities, and delivered them a Paper, desiring them to do him that Justice as to give it the King. He then prayed again, and having forgiven the Executioner, prepared himself for the Block, and the Sign being given, the Executioner, at one blow, sever'd his Head from his Body; which was brought in a Hearse to one Mr. *Metcalfs*, an Upholster, at the *Helmet*, in *Fleet-street*, and thence, that Night, privatly Interred in the Church of *St. Martins* in the Field. The Sheriffs, according to his desire, delivered the Paper to the King; Which is as follows.

S Peaking nor Writing was never my Talent; I shall therefore give a very short, but faithfull Account. First, Of my Religion; and next, What I suffer most innocently for, to avoid the Calumnies I may reasonably expect my Enemies will cast upon me when Dead, since they have most falsly and maliciously aspersed me, whilst under my Misfortunes.

As for my Religion; I was brought up in the Church of *England*, as it is established by Law, and have ever professed it; tho, I confess, I have been an unworthy Member of it, in not living up to the strict and excellent Rules thereof, for which I take shame to my self, and humbly ask forgiveness of GOD. I come now to Die in that Communion, trusting, as an humble and hearty Penitent, to be received by the Mercy of GOD, through the Merits of *Jesus Christ* my SAVIOUR.

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My Religion taught me my Loyalty, which I bless God, is untainted; and I have ever endeavoured, in the Station wherein I have been placed, to the utmost of my power, to support the Crown of *England*, in the true and lineal course of Descent, without interruption.

As for what I am now to Die, I call GOD to witness, I went not to the Meeting in *Leaden-Hall-Street* with any such intention, as to Invite King *James* by Force to Invade this Nation; nor was I my self provided with either Horse or Arms, or engaged for any number of Men, or gave particular consent for any such Invasion, as is most falsely Sworn against me.

I do also declare, in the presence of GOD, that I knew nothing of King *James* his coming to *Calais*, nor of any Invasion intended from thence, till it was publicly known; and the only Notion I had that something might be attempted was from the *Thoulon* Fleet coming to *Brest*.

I also call GOD to witness, that I received the knowledge, of what is contained in those Papers that I gave to a Great Man that came to me in the Tower both from Letters and Messages that came from *France*; and he told me, when I read them to him, that the Prince of *Orange* had been acquainted with most of those things before.

I might have expected Mercy from that Prince, because I was Instrumental in saving his Life; for when, about *April* 95, An Attempt formed against him came to my Knowledge, I did partly by Dissuasions, and partly by Delay prevent that Design; which, I suppose, was the reason that the last Villainous Project was concealed from me.

If there be any Persons whom I have Injured in Word or Deed, I heartily pray their Pardon, and beg of God to Pardon those who have Injured me particularly, those who with great Zeal hath sought my Life, and brought the guilt of my Innocent Blood upon this Nation, no Treason being proved upon me.

I return my most hearty Thanks to those Noble and worthy Persons who gave their Assistance, by opposing this Bill of Attainder; Without which, it had been Impossible I could have fallen under the Sentence of death. God bless them and their Posterity; tho', I am fully satisfied, they pleaded their own Cause when they defended mine.

And now, O GOD, I do with all humble Devotion commend my Soul into thy Hands, the great Maker and Preserver of Men, and Lover of Souls; beseeching thee, that it may be always dear and precious in thy sight, through the Merits of my SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST Amen.

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